

1987: Baghdad, Iraq; Kuwait City; Taif, Saudi Arabia: An inspection delegation to review the security of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf during the Iran-Iraq war. Most notable was a vigorous session in Baghdad with the Foreign Minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz, on Iraq's use of chemical weapons in its war with Iran.

1988: As an emissary of the U.S. State Department, Nick engaged in a private dialogue with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, providing a framework that produced the current U.S.-Greece agreement on military bases.

1989: Appointment to the House Select Committee on Intelligence, performing oversight of the CIA and other elements of the intelligence community. Nick's input: to require that intelligence be accessible to the U.S. forces deployed and at risk.

During this time, he was also engaged in the significant legislative work on national security that included:

The 1986 Defense Reorganization—the Goldwater-Nichols Act—that fundamentally restructured military command and control—so that troops serving in high-threat combat and peacekeeping missions—would have a responsive and dynamic military chain of command.

Implementation of the Packard Commission recommendations to reform Pentagon acquisition practices.

Legislation that limited the deployment of nuclear ballistic missiles, and ensuring that missile defense technology be treaty compliant.

Funding for the Navy's F-18 fighter, powered by GE engines from Lynn. Twenty years later the F-18 remains as the backbone of Naval Aviation;

And, the Small Disadvantaged Business Act that allowed more American citizens to compete in government contracting.

Throughout his service in Congress, Nick would earn the respect and trust of his colleagues. From Massachusetts: Senators Ted Kennedy, Paul Tsongas and John Kerry, Speaker Tip O'Neill, Joe Moakley, Ed Markey and Jim Shannon, Barney Frank and Joe Kennedy. And other Members of Congress, including Sam Nunn, Barry Goldwater, John Glenn, Les Aspin, Sam Stratton, Bill Nichols and Beverly Byron. His colleagues in Congress would conclude this about Nick Mavroules: He was always a gentleman. He was always well prepared. And, he always kept his word.

But, no matter the challenge in Congress, the highlight of each week would be Nick's return home to Mary and the girls. From his daughters and grandchildren came these comments:

Grandson Michael: He told me stories of himself in my place to lift my spirit; He never said, "No, Forget it, don't bother" or anything to that degree when I told him about my goals in my life I wish to go by; Any time I ever spent with him was always a good time no matter what the situation or event was; You were always there for me no matter what the situation was. The worst thing in my life was to see you go. I love you with all my heart and I always will.

Grandson Matthew: Taking me on my daily paper route. Calling me to make sure that I was ready to be picked up. You would say, "Can you believe I went from a Congressman to a paper boy. I went from being chauffeured to chauffeuring. Telling me never to forget our roots or where you came from.

Son-in-law Wayne: You weren't just a husband, dad or grandfather you were a best friend. You really had to feel very special to be Nick's friend. To Kristen and Nicholas, you just weren't a Papou but more likely considered a dad to them. Stories of baseball

and basketball when you played but as he told his stories, he told the grandchildren not to do what he did. When he watched the Red Sox and Patriots blow a game was so comical. If they pulled it out and won he would say "there's not a better team. Aren't they great!"

Grandson Jon: "No bird soars too high, if it soars with its own wings"—This could mean so many different things to many different people but it only means one thing when it comes to my mind. Everything that my grandfather taught and showed me in my life comes down to one thing. You will be most successful in life if you do things on your own and with some guidance of people who are close to you. Words cannot express how much love I will continue to have for my grandfather and how proud I am to say that my grandfather was Nicholas Mavroules.

Daughter Gail: Calling the boys over to your house when your clicker didn't work, remote controls, setting up your phone, TV, voice mail, teaching you all your buttons in your new car, and how proud you were of them because they had the knowledge of technology. How you would call us everyday from D.C. to check on us and how you would know from the tone of our voices if we were fine or not. You knew us like books. Warning the Capital Security and House Members when your grandchildren came to visit. How they would run through the halls going into other members, offices until they found you. Discussing at dinner and everyone taking turns including you and Ma. What was the best and worst part of everyone's day. How you loved that. I will forever miss your kindness, your smile, the warmth and softness of your hands, your guidance, loyalty, your love and affection, support but most of all being our champion and tower of strength. You taught us values to live by. In our lives you were bigger than life, you made us so proud and we will always live in your extraordinary legacy. You're our mentor and now our guardian angel. I love and thank you with all of my heart which you took a piece of with you and hope it lives within you as your soul will with me.

Daughter Brenda: I will always treasure these special times we shared. There wasn't anything that we didn't discuss. You always said the right things. You were my dad, hero, and friend. God needed an angel in heaven, and he took you, but he also took a special part of me. I wish everyone had the opportunity to be blessed with two beautiful parents like I was. I will miss you buddy and will love you always.

Daughter Debbie: You were my dad and my tower of strength. When I was weak you were my strength. You were my sports buddy every week during a Pats game or a Red Sox game, and if we weren't watching them together I would be on the phone with you at least five times. I started every morning by hearing you answer the phone. "Hello Deb, what are you doing Dad? Having coffee and toast and reading the papers by starting with the sports section first." You were a father to my children who adored you. You fought tooth and nail for us and always said no one will ever abuse you and the kids again. What a price you paid for our freedom. That's what Nick Mavroules was all about. The kindest, most caring, and loving individual who never forgot where he came from. That's my dad, our dad. Even from a sick hospital bed he always said take care of your mother and take care of the kids and each other and always stay together as one. Thank you for your endless love and family values.

Son in Law Phil: When I first met your daughter you did not trust me. Who was this "Irish guy taking out my daughter." Our first date, Brenda had to be home by ten o'clock PM until you trusted me with your

little girl. Once I was "cleared" you welcomed me with open arms.

On my first trip to Washington I was in awe of how many of the police officers, wait staff and regular people knew Nick and he knew them. He always treated them with the same respect as he did the Head of State. Nick you were a "class act."

Nick, I remember the birth of David. Once again you were sharing your life for others. I know when you called from the Navy ship you were so proud. David and you developed a very special relationship. David idolized you and relished the opportunity to spend time with "Pap." Alexis, what can I say. She is the only one who could convince the former Chairman of the Armed Services' Intelligence Committee to be a student who needed to complete his "dot to dot" assignment. Both David and Alexis loved their Papou. You were their hero and both of them will truly miss you.

Nick, I thank you for the opportunity to marry your daughter. I knew from the start that I could never be the number one man in Brenda's life. That spot was reserved for you. I can only try to live up to your standards. I will try my best to take care of your daughter and grandchildren.

Granddaughter Alexis: Papou was Alexis's favorite student. He was her "dot to dot" champ. Alexis told Papou when he came home from the hospital she would allow him to be the principal. Alexis and Papou had a special code, on every hour Alexis had to give Papou a kiss. Papou these kisses will never stop. When you feel tiny lips on your cheek, it's me still loving you. You will always live on in my heart Papou. I love you.

Grandson David: You helped me and you guided me through good and bad. I remember when I had social studies homework and it was about the government. I would call Papou and ask him and he would help me. We used to hang out together, talk about his past, talk about the economy, and why things happen. I loved spending time together and you don't know how much I loved it. You were my best buddy and my pal. I will miss you and I will cherish you forever and ever. I love you Papou.

(Conclusion)

Nicholas Mavroules left us on Christmas morning. We will remember him. And, we will miss him. But, we can all find consolation in an angel's Christmas morning blessing found in the Gospel of Luke:

"Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

With God's blessing, we say peace to our friend Nick Mavroules.

HONORING THERESA MARCELLA
(PALOMARES) FUENTES

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Theresa Marcella (Palomares) Fuentes, affectionately known to all as Teddy. She was born on January 16, 1924 in Los Angeles to Robert F. & Bessie (Duarte) Palomares. A fifth generation native Californian, Theresa is a direct descendent of Don Ygnacio Palomares, original Spanish land grantee of the historic Rancho San Jose located furthest from San Gabriel Mission and encompassing the area that today includes Pomona, San Dimas, La Verne and adjacent areas.

Teddy was educated in Los Angeles Catholic parochial schools, including St. Mary's Grammar School at 4th & Chicago in Boyle Heights, and later graduated from Catholic Girls High School. Immediately following graduation Theresa enlisted in the United States Navy Women's Auxiliary (WAVE's) Corps during the height of World War II, and was stationed in Washington, DC performing clerical duties for the Navy Department.

Upon her Honorable Discharge from the Navy following the war, Theresa married her childhood sweetheart Robert H. "Bob" Fuentes, also a Los Angeles native. Together they had 10 children, Christina Marie, Roberta Theresa (married to James F. Buescher), Charles Patrick (married to Linda L. Unruh), Andrea Elizabeth (married to Robert C. Kunkel), Cecelia Catherine, Robert Henry III (married to Cynthia Vetter), Mary Carole (deceased), Christopher Francis, Joseph Aloysius (married to Amy D. Boothe), and Caroline Bernadette "Buffy" (deceased), and made their home in Norwalk and later Cerritos.

A devoted homemaker and helpmate, Teddy immersed herself in the education and development of her children, amply demonstrating her talents as an accomplished artist and painter, expert seamstress, first-rate cook, as well as noted hostess in furtherance of her husband Bob's political career. After the untimely death of Bob Fuentes at age 50, Teddy took up the mantle of family matriarch and entered the workforce as a Sales Representative for Coca-Cola Bottling Company, retiring in 1991 after 14 highly successful years.

Teddy Fuentes has made many outstanding contributions to church, civic and community endeavors, including service as Grand Regent of the Santa Teresita Court of the Catholic Daughters of America, and active memberships in the American Business Women's Association, Native Daughters of the Golden West, Past Grand Knights Association of the Knights of Columbus Council 3678, Gadabouts Senior Club, and Cerritos Senior Citizens.

A world traveler par excellence, Teddy has traveled throughout the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East including several trips to Israel where she was baptized in the Jordan River, and Egypt where she rode camels at the pyramids and Sphinx.

Theresa Marcella Palomares Fuentes celebrated her 80th birthday on January 16, 2004 together with her large family and numerous friends including her six grandchildren Jennifer Marie Hood, Holly Alana Hood, Ryan Anthony Kunkel, Lauren Elizabeth Kunkel, Laurel Frances Fuentes and Robert Henry Fuentes, IV. I take great pleasure in noting the wonderful life and achievements of Theresa Marcella Palomares Fuentes, extend sincere best wishes on the happy occasion of her 80th birthday and wish her continued happiness and good health.

HONORING RICHARD SILVER

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Silver, a public servant who has dedicated his life to caring for and comforting our country's veterans.

Dick Silver has worked in various capacities for the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs for more than fifty years. During that time, he has served as the director, assistant director, administrator, and personnel services officer at VA hospitals in Massachusetts, Washington D.C., New Jersey, North Carolina, and eventually, in Florida.

Dick was appointed Director of the James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa, which is near my congressional district, in 1979. The hospital, and its associated outpatient clinics, nursing homes, and domiciliaries, serves many of my constituents and has grown dramatically during his tenure. He has guided the hospital through trying times with humor, grace, and an abiding respect for the men and women who seek care at his facilities.

I worked closely with Dick over the past decade to build a spinal cord injury unit at the Tampa VA. Dick's guidance, wisdom, and knowledge were instrumental in helping me secure the necessary Federal funding for the project. He oversaw construction of the unit which, in the words of VA Secretary Principi, provides the best care in the country for veterans with spinal cord injuries and dysfunction.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to know and have worked closely with Richard Silver for so many years. His leadership, dedication, and professionalism have been an asset to me, our country, and those for whom he and his staff care.

HONORING HATTIE HALL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hattie Hall, a resident of my Fifth Congressional District of Florida and a woman who has become something very few of us ever will. Mrs. Hall is a centenarian and at 101 she is a mother to 5 sons, a grandmother to 10 grandchildren, and a great-grandmother to 19 and has 3 great, great-grandchildren!

Hattie was born in Savannah, Georgia and went to school at Savannah State College. Following school, she worked as a school teacher and a nurses' aid. She describes her happiest moments as going shopping with her uncle, her mother and her brother. One of her favorite activities is painting pictures.

After 101 years, Hattie says she only wished she had learned to paint at a younger age. When asked what advice she'd give to young people she says, "always do the right thing and remember to pray." She says the best thing about growing older is having a good son to take care of her.

Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, I ask that you join me in honoring Hattie Hall today. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has. She is truly a great lady and someone with an appreciation for the importance of family and friends.

HONORING ARLINE WHITAKER

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and colleague who has played a major role in local government in my district, Arline Whitaker. As the Chair of the Farmington Town Council for the past 7 years, Arline has served her town with distinction and dedication.

Arline has been an active, constructive voice in the Farmington community for decades and first entered local government in 1979, serving as a member of the Farmington Town Council from 1989–2004. In addition, she chaired the Conservation Commission from 1988–1989. She continued to serve in various capacities in local government while also contributing her keen mind and boundless energy to develop many local organizations, including the Hill Stead Museum, the Stanley Whitman House, Friends of the Farmington Library, the Farmington Garden Club, and Services for the Elderly, among many others.

In her 7 years serving as chair of the Farmington Town Council, Arline has provided the leadership, enthusiasm, and long hours of hard work to accomplish an impressive list of projects. She led the initiative to build a new senior center, police station, and expand the Farmington library, while also acquiring 554 acres of land for open space preservation. She was involved with the creation of a new upper elementary school that provides our children needed classroom space. In addition, her relentless effort to seek State and Federal funding for local road improvements and the Rails to Trails project has brought new opportunities to Farmington residents to keep fit and enjoy their remarkable, scenic, and historic town.

Arline's long service to the town of Farmington is notable and commendable because it both preserved and protected a rich and wonderful history and prepared Farmington to continue as a strong community for decades to come. As a friend of Arline's, I wish her good health, high energy and joy in all she undertakes, with the time released from her many public responsibilities. My thanks for her public service, the high standards to which she held herself, and for her personal friendship.

CONGRATULATING ALYN KIEL ON HER ESSAY REGARDING PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE, AN INVASIVE SPECIE

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an essay written by Alyn Kiel, an 11th grade student at Montague High School in Montague, MI. The essay is titled "Purple Loosestrife: A Beautiful Killer," and it is an excellent discussion of a very serious but commonly overlooked environmental problem around the Great Lakes and throughout the Nation.

Purple Loosestrife is one of the most common invasive non-native species in the United